

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 4 as follows:

The present application claims priority to Japanese Applications Nos. P2000-071102 filed March 14, 2000, and P2000-071104 filed March 14, 2000, which applications are incorporated herein by reference to the extent permitted by law.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 11 as follows:

In the above-described configuration of “superdistribution”, although the content usage log is recorded, a fee collection system based on the usage log is not clearly indicated, and one of the following conventional methods has to be employed for paying the fee. (1) The user inputs-a inputs his/her credit card number through the user terminal and sends it to a content provider, a service provider, or a content right-of-use sales center for managing the rights of the use of the content. (2) The user inputs-a inputs his/her bank account number through the user terminal and sends it to a content provider, a service provider, or a content right-of-use sales center. (3) The user makes a user registration, and also registers a credit card number or a bank account number in a content provider, a service provider, or a content right-of-use sales center. Then, the content provider, the service provider, or the content right-of-use sales center deducts the usage fee based on the registered data.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 25, line 10 as follows:

The clearing center 260 sends an electronic-money issue log (hereinafter simply referred to as the “issue log”) 251 in which the usable amount of money and an identifier of the user device 220 are sent set to the user device 220. The user device 220 stores the issue log 251 therein. The issue log 251 is discussed in detail later.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 45, line 10 as follows:

The digital signatures attached to the individual logs are briefly discussed below. In the following example, the Digital Encryption Standard (DES) according to a common key cryptosystem is employed for creating the digital signatures. In the present invention, the other encryption standards of the common key cryptosystem, such as the Fast Data ~~Data~~ Encipherment Algorithm ~~Algorithm~~ (FEAL) developed by NTT or Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) developed by NIST, may be employed.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 64, line 6 as follows:

There are two modes for distributing the content among a plurality of users. In one mode, the content is transferred from a user A to a user B, and from the user B to a user C, namely, the content is sequentially transferred among different users in a serial manner. This serial content distribution is hereinafter referred to as “inter-generation delivery”. In the other mode, the content which was ~~has~~ first purchased by the user A is distributed to users B, C, D, and so on, in a parallel manner. That is, the same content is distributed from a single user to a plurality of users. This parallel content distribution is referred to as “secondary delivery”.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 65, line 20 as follows:

Fig. 13 illustrate ~~illustrates~~ an example of the specific configuration of the UCP 1203, and Fig. 14 illustrates an example of the specific configuration of the price information 1202.. The UCP 1203 includes, as shown in Fig. 13, the content identifier (ID), the usable device conditions indicating user devices which are allowed to use the content, the area code indicating the code of the areas which are allowed to use the content, the type of right of use indicating the limit of the use of the content (for example, the number of times the content is allowed to be read

or copied (downloaded)), “UCP generation management information” 1301 representing the number of “inter-generation deliveries” is allowed, and “number of secondary deliveries” 1302 designating the number of times the “secondary delivery” is allowed. The “UCP generation management information” 1301 and the “number of secondary deliveries” 1302 indicate the number of times the content can be distributed among different user devices. Usage control status (UCS) information (see Fig. 16) containing “UCS generation management information” and “number of UCS secondary deliveries” is stored in a memory of each user device according to the content, which is discussed below in greater detail. The number of times the content is permitted to be distributed between different users set in the “UCP generation management information” 1301 becomes source data of the above “UCS generation management information” and the “number of UCS secondary deliveries”. Based on the “UCS generation management information” or the “number of UCS secondary deliveries”, it is determined whether inter-generation delivery or secondary delivery is to be performed. The “UCS generation management information” is updated every time the inter-generation delivery is performed. The “number of UCS secondary deliveries” is updated every time the secondary delivery is performed.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 70, line 20 as follows:

Since the “UCS generation management information” becomes zero, the user (E) is no longer able to deliver the content regardless of the number of “UCS secondary deliveries”. The user (A) who has delivered the content to the users (B) and (C) is able to deliver the content three more times (“number of UCS secondary deliveries” is three). The user (B) who has delivered the content to the user (D) is able to deliver the content four more times (three more times if it

reflects the UCS(A)) (“number of UCS secondary deliveries” is four (three if it reflects the UCS(A)). The user (C) who has not delivered the content is able to deliver the content five more times (three more times if it reflects the UCS(A)) (“number of UCS secondary deliveries” is five (three if it reflects the UCS(A)). The user (D) who has delivered the content to the user (E) is able to deliver the content four more times (two if it reflects the ~~UCS(B)~~ (“number UCS(B)”) (“number of UCS secondary deliveries” is four (two if it reflects the UCS(B)).

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 90, line 15 as follows:

In step S1905, the user device A sends the secure container and the UCS(A) to the user device B. In this case, the user device A attaches a signature to the secure container. It is not essential that the whole UCS(A) be sent to the user device B, and only the data which should be reflected in the subsequent UCS, such as the “UCS generation management information”, may be selected from the UCS(A) and sent to the user device B.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 91, line 3 as follows:

If the integrity of the above data is verified in step S1906, the process proceeds to step S1907 in which the user device B pays the content usage fee by electronic money based on the price information and the sales conditions set in the secure container. More specifically, the user device B creates a usage log and sends it to the user device A. The signature of the user device B is attached to the usage log.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 94, line 12 as follows:

The award redemption processing may be preformed-performed by the service provider, the clearing center, the content provider, or another institution. In the following example, the

award redemption processing performed by the service provider is discussed with reference to the block diagram of Fig. 20.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 97, line 14 as follows:

Thus, in order to utilize the purchased content, the user device A 2210 has to withdraw 1,000 yen from electronic money and ~~pays~~pay it. The user device A 2210 performs this payment processing by creating a usage log and sending it to a content supplier. Accordingly, the electronic money balance of the user A is reduced to 9,000 yen. In this case, the content supplier may be a service provider or the user device B 2220. The service provider or the user device B 2220 creates a receive log based on the usage log received from the user device A 2210 and sends it to the clearing center 2230.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 98, line 9 as follows:

The account management institution 2240 receives the settlement processing data from the clearing center 2230, and performs transfer processing according to the data. More specifically, the account management institution 2240 withdraws 1,000 yen from a user account 2242 managed by the clearing center 2230 (hereinafter sometimes referred to as the “clearing-center management account), and account”), and transfers it to an account 2243 of the content supplier, i.e., the service provider or the user device B 2220.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 101, line 25 as follows:

The account management institution 2370 executes transfer processing for each account according to the “profit distribution” stored in the account management institution 2370 shown in Fig. 23 (represented by processing (7) in Fig. 23). Although in Fig. 23 only the electronic money settlement between the user C 2350 and the user B 2340 is shown, the account

management institution 2370 performs transfer processing for other ~~accounts of~~ accounts, such as the content provider 2310. The profit distribution information may be extracted from the receive log and then sent from the clearing center 2360 to the account management institution 2370.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 113, line 17 as follows:

First, in order to enable payment processing by electronic money, the user device A 2610 requests a clearing center 2630 to register the user device A 2610 in a user management server of the clearing center 2630 and to set the balance in an electronic-money management server (indicated by processing (1)). That is, the user device A 2610 performs transfer request to the clearing center 2630. In response to the request, the clearing center 2630 requests an account management institution 2640 to transfer 10,000 yen from a user A account 2641 to a clearing-center management account 2642, and the account management institution 2640 performs transfer processing accordingly (represented by processing (2)). As a result, the balance of the user A account 2641 is reduced from 100,000 yen to 90,000 yen, and the balance of the clearing-center management account 2642 is increased from 0 to 10,000 yen. Upon completion of the transfer processing, a confirmation request is sent to the clearing center 2630. Then, the clearing center 2630 updates the balance of the user A in the electronic-money management server from 0 to 10,000 yen (designated by processing (3)).